(b) whether any medicine or vaccine to prevent and check the disease has been identified;

(c) if so, what are the names of the medicine or vaccine;

(d) whether Government have included the said vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme; and

(e) if not, by when the Government propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) During 1987, 2921 cases with 1186 deaths (provisional) due to Japanese Encephalities have been reported from the State Health authorities of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal against 7500 cases with 2627 deaths reported during 1986. It may thus be seen that there has been an overall decline in number of cases and deaths in 1987.

At present, there is no specific anti-viral drug against Japanese Encephalitis and symptomatic treatment only is imparted.

The Central Research Institute, Kasauli has started production of inactivated mouse-brain Japanese Encephalitis vaccine. The mass production of indigenous J E. vaccine and its application in immunisation programme has not yet been taken up. It has been decided to use this indigenous vaccine on a limited basis in some selected J.E. endemic areas of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

Tribal culture

*138. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to preserve and promote tribal culture in the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in different States in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to promote the art and culture of the Scheduled Tribes in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI I. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Culture, including preservation and promotion of tribal culture, is primarily a State subject. However, the Government of India, through the Department of Culture's Schemes and programmes and those of the organisations under its aegis, have taken steps for the preservation and promotion of tribal culture in the country. The Zonal Cultural Centres set up in the recent past have also held many tribal festivals and workshops in many parts of the country. The activities of these organisations are nationally or regionally oriented without specific reference to any particular State.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above the question of specific schemes for the Scheduled Tribes in Orissa does not arise But the activities of the Government of India's institutions and organisations cover this area also. The Lalit Kala Akademi has established a Tribal Artists Welfare Centre in Dhenkenal in Orissa to make available facilities to the tribal artists to work on their traditional craft of Dokra. The Sangeet Natak Akademi has given assistance to institutions in Orissa for promoting tribal art performances and has documented the performing art forms of the important tribal groups.

Suspension of Bombay/Goa shipping Service

*139. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India has partially suspended Bombay/Goa shipping service;

(b) whether it is a fact that this service has been operated only by two ships acquired from "Chowgale-Shipping";

(c) whether there is any plan to augment this Coastal Shipping Service Fleet; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make this an efficient service, providing better passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Out of two ships engaged in this service, one ship has been temporarily withdrawn with effect from end of January, 1988.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and(d) There is no firm plan to augment this service.

Indira Gandhi National Open University

*140. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indira Gandhi National Open University propose to offer under-graduate courses of study only next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that so far only a search is going on for finding out need based courses which the University can offer; and

(c) if so, what are the long-term and short-term courses which have already been started and are going to be started in the course of the coming academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University, the under-graduate courses would commence in August, 1988. The University has started 2 Diploma programmes, one in Management and the other in Distance Education, which are in progress since January, 1987. A new Diploma programme in Creative Writing and a Certificate Course in Rural Development have since been added. A preparatory programme for those who have no formal qualifications, has also commenced from January, 1988. Those who successfully complete this course will be eligible for admission to B.A./B.Com; course to which admission would be made in July-August 1988. Other programmes proposed by the University include Diploma programmes in Computer Education, Library Science, Tribal Education, and Women's Education besides continuing education programmes for Defence Services Officers, teachers, etc.

Constitution of State welfare Advisory Boards

@875. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Welfare Advisory Boards which are without Chairman at present;

(b) the reasons for not filling these vacancies; and

(c) the number of proposals of State Government pending with the Government for finalising the appointment of the Chairman of these State Welfare Advisory Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Two State Welfare Advisory Boards are without Chairman.

(b) State Government's proposals/notification are awaited by the Central Social Welfare Board.

@Previously Unstarred Question 504 transferred from the 26th February, 1988.